



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE

PICKERING, MO., FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Pickering, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today for being a felon in possession of several firearms. Today's guilty plea, Graves said, is the result of work completed by the NITRO Task Force.

Timothy Paul Frampton, 41, of Pickering, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to being a felon in possession of three firearms.

By pleading guilty, **Frampton** admitted that he was in possession of a Stevens Little Scout .22 caliber rifle with no serial number, a Winchester .22 caliber rifle and a Remington Arms .243 caliber rifle between Jan. 1, 2003, and May 23, 2003, in Nodaway County, Mo., and Buchanan County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Frampton** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

Frampton was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 27, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statute, Graves explained, **Frampton** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$250,000 fine. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Nodaway County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway

Patrol, the Nodaway County, Mo., Prosecutor's Office and the NITRO Task Force. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow